

ROWAN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION	
Standard Operating Guideline: 1.20	Title: Incident Command
Effective Date: January 21, 2021	Subtitle: None
Adoption Signature (Association President)	
References: NFPA 1561, National Incident Management System.	

Rowan County Incident Command Guideline

Purpose: To provide for safe and effective incident command when units from multiple agencies are operating together at an incident.

1. Command should be established on any incident that will require the use of 3 or more agencies for 15 or more minutes.
2. On any multi-unit incident, the first officer on the scene may declare *"I have the incident"*. This is not a formal establishment of command but defines for Rowan Telcom and other units responding of who is in charge of the incident until command is established. Until a formal command is established, any further information about the incident will be relayed to this individual and any further determinations to upgrade or release units from the incident will be made by the individual having the incident.
3. Command may be initially established by a unit/company officer. However, unit/company officers are part of apparatus staffing and are responsible to lead their company. They are typically not equipped with the environment or resources for strategic-level incident management. Command should be transferred/assumed by the first dedicated command officer to arrive so that the unit/company officer may return to supervising their company.
4. The following chain of command / authority will apply on incidents involving multiple departments/agencies:
 1. A chief officer of the host department.
 2. A chief officer of a department on the call.
 3. A company officer of the host department.
 4. A company officer of a department on the call.
 5. A firefighter of the host department.
 6. A firefighter of any department on the call.
5. A chief officer is defined as a member holding the rank of fire chief, deputy chief, assistant chief, division chief, or battalion chief.
6. A company officer is defined as a member holding the rank of captain, lieutenant, or sergeant.
7. Fire Chiefs are responsible to ensure that their appointed chiefs and officers have the required training, knowledge, and experience to serve in their respective capacity.

END

ROWAN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION	
Standard Operating Guideline: 2.20	Title: General Structure Fire Operations
Effective Date: January 21, 2021	Subtitle: None
Adoption Signature (Association President)	
References:	

Rowan County General Structure Fire Operations

Purpose: To ensure safe and controlled management of structure fires with Rowan County where multiple departments will be required to operate together. The following serves as the default predetermined assignment initial action at reported structure fires.

Level 1 Staging. Defined as staging at a location that will allow the company to access any side of the structure or area of the scene as may be assigned by command. Unless executing a predetermined assignment (PDA) any units arriving after Command is established will automatically Level 1 stage and await an assignment from Command. The location of level 1 staging does not need to be announced.

Level II Staging: Level II Staging is utilized when Command desires to maintain a reserve of resources on-scene, and when the need to centralize resources is required. **Level II Staging** places all reserve resources in a central location. This level of staging is generally used for greater alarm assignments and directs responding companies to a designated standby location (chosen by the IC) located a short distance away from the immediate scene location. All other support services (including available crews, and food, medical, rehab, fuel,) can be directed to this location. Level 2 staging areas always have a staging officer and preferably at least 1 assistant, who reports directly to the IC.

Preferred Staffing. (The typical duties outlined in this guide are built with three (3) operating interior structural firefighters. Staffing will need to be augmented on the scene prior if the apparatus arrives with fewer.) The preferred staffing for an engine or ladder company is three (3) interior-qualified personnel. Any unit with less than three qualified personnel will not assume one of the below primary positions, but will instead Level 1 stage and receive an assignment from command. Exception – If the unit is first arriving, the unit shall take the appropriate position and begin action and Command will assign another company to assist to increase staffing to accomplish its tasks.

Primary Position Assignments. The following primary assignments are applicable to all fires and shall be implemented automatically unless directed otherwise by command.

First Arriving Engine Company

- First arriving engine duties are: If working fire conditions are evident, should strongly consider initiating water supply by a forward lay from closest hydrant or from the desired location of the water shuttle / drop tanks. Preplanned split lays, driveway lays or means to assemble an effective water supply system should be utilized when possible.
- Position apparatus for the best advancement of attack lines.
- Announce on scene as “1st engine” so that other engines and Commanders know the duties are being covered. No need to elongate radio communications by announcing specifics when using “First Engine” terminology.
- Provide on-scene and 360 report prior to making entry.
- Advance attack line to lowest floor of fire.

First Arriving Tanker

- Position at the location where the supply line has been laid and supply water.
- If possible, the first tanker may report directly to the location of the first engine as a nurse tanker, using caution not to block ladder company placement if appropriate. In this case it must be ensured that other tankers will be able to access the scene in a loop.
- Exception: If operating engine(s) have established a water supply (Hydrant, Static, other).

First Arriving Ladder or Rescue Company.

- First arriving Ladder Company duties are: Position for best use of the apparatus/equipment, generally on side Alpha (communicate if positioning on a different side).
- Announce on scene and as "1st ladder"
- The officer and firefighter shall proceed to the location of the first engine and assist with forcible entry, primary search, and checking for extension.
- The driver (and one additional crew member if available) shall remain outside and begin outside duties to include placement of aerial and portable ladders, horizontal ventilation, utility control, etc.

Second Arriving Engine Company.

- If water supply has not been initiated by the first arriving engine, initiate water supply by a forward lay or from the desired location of the water shuttle / drop tanks. Assist the First Engine to complete their water supply, then proceed to FAST duties.
- Position apparatus as to not block tankers and/or ladder company.
- Announce on scene as "2nd engine".
- Assume FAST (Firefighter Assist Safety Team) duties and assist the 1st engine and outside vent teams without entering the IDLH. Monitor the operations channel and the Firefighter Emergency Channel if possible.

Additional Tankers and Water Supply Point Engine(s)

- Utilize the secondary operations channel for water supply operations.

First Arriving Command Officer

- Establish command if not established, or transfer command if already established.
- Manage incident and direct additional companies.

Later Arriving Command Officers

- Later arriving chief officers who are not part of staffing the crew of an apparatus should stage their vehicle out of the way and report to the command post with PPE and ready to assume any role in the command structure, including command aide or division/group supervisor positions.

All Other Companies

- Report "Level 1 staged" on the primary OPS channel one time and remain with your apparatus until assigned.

Rowan County EMS and Rescue Squad

- Announce only “Level 1 Staged” on OPS channel.
- Deploy to a location that this unit deems appropriate for their duties.
- Report to COMMAND when the unit is set-up. Report only that the unit is set-up and the location.

END

ROWAN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION	
Standard Operating Guideline: Index	Title: SOG/SOP INDEX
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